

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The composition as claimed in claim 18, wherein the composition comprises~~ A composition intended to be applied to the surfaces of freshly placed or freshly demolded mortars and/or concretes, before the beginning of setting, in order to prevent the evaporation of the water necessary for their setting and for their hardening and to create, on said surfaces, high adhesiveness of the finishing materials, which composition is provided in the form of an aqueous emulsion comprising:

- a) from 5% to 60% by weight of at least one paraffin wax of petroleum or synthetic origin including, as a mixture, saturated and unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbons of general formulae C_nH_{2n+2} and C_nH_{2n} for which n is at least equal to 30 and for which the melting point is between 40°C and 75°C;
- b) from 8% to 40% by weight of at least one hydrocarbon compound which is a linear or cyclic hydrocarbon oil of aliphatic or naphthenic origin, alone or as a mixture, of general formulae C_nH_{2n+2} and C_nH_{2n} for which n is less than 30;
- c) from 10% to 50% by weight of at least one ~~hydrocarbon~~ ester-containing oil formed of at least one ester resulting from the condensation reaction of a saturated or unsaturated fatty acid ~~and an~~ with a mono-, di- or trihydric alcohol;
- d) from 15% to 35% by weight of solids content of at least one latex formed of a colloidal aqueous emulsion of at least one polymer;

e) from 0.02% to 5% by weight of at least one pulverulent filler of inorganic or organic origin;

f) and of water in a quantity sufficient for 100%.

20. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the ratio by weight, as dry active material, of the total of the oils and paraffin wax present is at least equal to 0.25.

21. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 20, wherein said composition has a dry matter content of between 10% to 60% by weight.

22. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of the composition as defined in claim 21, characterized in that the process comprises successive introduction of the various components of the composition into a preparation region subjected to stirring, the contents of which can be heated or cooled, comprising the steps of:

- i) introducing into said preparation region a pre-determined amount of water and adding an emulsifying agent;
- ii) stirring the water and emulsifying agent to produce a homogeneous medium;
- iii) adding a mixture of the at least one hydrocarbon compound which is a linear or cyclic hydrocarbon oil of aliphatic or naphthenic origin and the at least one ~~hydrocarbon~~ ester-containing oil formed of at least one ester resulting from the condensation reaction of a saturated or unsaturated fatty acid and stirring for a sufficient time to produce a first emulsion;
- iv) adding a pre-determined amount of the paraffin wax into the first emulsion while stirring;

wherein the paraffin wax heated beforehand to a temperature sufficient to cause the paraffin wax to melt and to convert the paraffin wax into the emulsion state, when the paraffin wax is introduced in the form of a very fine powder; or

wherein the paraffin wax is at ambient temperature, when the paraffin wax is introduced in the form of an aqueous emulsion;

and stirring for a sufficient time to form a second emulsion, with optional cooling of the second emulsion;

- v) adding to the second emulsion a pre-determined amount of the at least one latex, and stirring for a sufficient time to produce a third emulsion of the paraffin, the hydrocarbons and the latex components; and
- vi) adding to the third emulsion a predetermined amount of the at least one pulverulent filler of inorganic or organic origin and stirring for a sufficient time to form a homogenous aqueous emulsion.

23. (currently amended) A method of ~~use of the composition as defined in claim 21~~ in protecting against evaporation of water and increasing the adhesion of the surfaces of freshly placed or freshly demolded mortars and/or concretes comprising the step of spraying said composition as defined in claim 21, as an aqueous emulsion, over said surfaces in a proportion of a working load deposited per unit of surface area of between 50 g/m² and 150 g/m² in order to achieve complete protection.

24-25. Canceled.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~The composition of claim 17, wherein~~ A composition intended for application to the surfaces of freshly placed or freshly demolded mortars or concretes, before the

beginning of setting, in order to prevent the evaporation of the water necessary for their setting and for their hardening and to create, on said surfaces, high adhesiveness of the finishing materials, which composition is provided in the form of an aqueous emulsion comprising at least one paraffin wax alone or in combination with at least one other hydrocarbon compound, comprising:

- a) at least one paraffin wax of petroleum or synthetic origin including, as a mixture, saturated and unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbons of general formulae C_nH_{2n+2} and C_nH_{2n} for which n is at least equal to 30 and for which the melting point is between 40°C and 75°C, wherein the at least one paraffin wax is present in said composition in a proportion of 5% to 60% by weight;
- b) at least one hydrocarbon compound which is a linear or cyclic hydrocarbon oil of aliphatic or naphthenic origin, alone or as a mixture, of general formulae C_nH_{2n+2} and C_nH_{2n} for which n is less than 30, is present in said composition in a proportion of 8% to 40% by weight;
- c) at least one compound which is an ester-containing oil formed of at least one ester resulting from the condensation reaction of a saturated or unsaturated fatty acid with and an alcohol having from one to five hydric functional groups, is present in said composition in a proportion of 10% to 50% by weight;
- d) at least one latex formed of a colloidal aqueous emulsion of at least one polymer or copolymer as an emulsion in water, the at least one polymer or copolymer selected from the group consisting of homopolymers of acrylic acid, of methacrylic acid and of the esters of these acids, the ester group of which is a C_1 to C_{12} alkyl group, copolymers of acrylic acid, of methacrylic acid or of the esters of these acids, the ester group of which is a C_1 to C_{12} alkyl

group, copolymers of vinyl and of acrylic acid or of methacrylic acid, copolymers of vinyl and of C₁ to C₁₂ esters, copolymers of acrylic or methacrylic acid, copolymers of acrylic acid or of methacrylic acid and of acrylic or methacrylic esters, styrene/acrylic or methacrylic copolymers, copolymers of ethylene and of vinyl acetate, copolymers of ethylene and of acrylic or methacrylic acid, acrylic/urethane copolymers and styrene/butadiene copolymers, is present in said composition in a proportion of 15% to 35% by weight of solids content;

e) at least one pulverulent filler of inorganic or organic origin is present in said composition in a proportion of 0.02% by weight to 5% by weight;

f) and water ~~is present~~ in a quantity sufficient for 100% by weight.

27. The composition of claim 26, wherein:

a) the at least one paraffin wax is present in said composition in a proportion of 5% to 40% by weight;

b) the at least one hydrocarbon compound which is a linear or cyclic hydrocarbon oil of aliphatic or naphthenic origin is present in said composition in a proportion of 9% to 30% by weight;

c) the at least one ~~hydrocarbon~~ ester-containing oil formed of at least one ester resulting from the condensation reaction of a fatty acid and an alcohol is present in said compositions in a proportion of 15% to 40% by weight;

d) the at least one latex formed of a colloidal aqueous emulsion of at least one polymer or copolymer as an emulsion in water is present in said compositions in a proportion of 15% to 35% by weight of solids content;

- e) the at least one pulverulent filler of inorganic or organic origin is present in said compositions in a proportion of 0.02% by weight to 5% by weight; and water is present: in a quantity sufficient for 100% by weight.
28. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 19, wherein the composition comprises:
- a) from 5% to 40% by weight of at least one paraffin wax of petroleum or synthetic origin;
- b) from 9% to 30% by weight of at least one hydrocarbon compound which is a linear or cyclic hydrocarbon oil of aliphatic or naphthenic origin;
- c) from 15% to 40% by weight of at least one ~~hydrocarbon~~ ester-containing oil formed of at least one ester resulting from the condensation reaction of a fatty acid and an alcohol;
- d) from 15% to 35% by weight of solids content of at least one latex formed of a colloidal aqueous emulsion of at least one polymer;
- e) from 0.02% to 5% by weight of at least one pulverulent filler of inorganic or organic origin;
- f) and of water ÷in a quantity sufficient for 100%.
29. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 20, wherein the ratio by weight, as dry active material, of the total of the oils and paraffin wax present is at least equal to 0.63.
30. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 29, wherein the ratio by weight, as dry active material, of the total of the oils and paraffin wax present is between 0.64 and 9.
31. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 21, wherein said composition has a dry matter content of between 30% by weight and 50% by weight.